

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1. (Currently amended) A method for distributing data among a plurality of
2 data storage systems comprising:
3 producing profile information for a first data object that is stored in a first data
4 storage system, said profile information comprising content-based information associated with
5 said first data object;
6 communicating said profile information to at least one second data storage
7 system;
8 said at least one second data storage system generating a selection indication
9 based on said profile information and on selection criteria that is maintained at said each second
10 data storage system;
11 ~~receiving a~~said at least one second data storage system communicating its
12 selection indication to said first data storage system from said second data storage system,
13 ~~wherein the selection indication is based upon selection criteria maintained at said second data~~
14 ~~storage system; and~~
15 selectively copying said first data object to said at least one second data storage
16 system based on ~~said its~~ selection indication and on said profile information,
17 wherein said first data object is copied to said each second data storage system
18 depending on content-based information associated with said first data object.

1 2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said first data storage system
2 comprises a server component in communication with a data storage component.

1 3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said second data storage
2 system comprises a server component in communication with a data storage component.

4. (Canceled)

1 5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 receiving at said first data storage system [[a]] the selection indication from each
3 of a plurality of second data storage systems, wherein said selection indication is an interest
4 metric;
5 producing an ordered set of said plurality of second data storage systems, ordered
6 according to said interest metric; and
7 communicating said first data object to the first N of said second data storage
8 systems in said ordered set.

1 6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said selection
2 indication is an interest metric, said method further comprising:
3 communicating said first data object to a second data storage system if its interest
4 metric exceeds a predetermined threshold.

1 7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said selection
2 indication indicates whether or not to communicate said first data object to said second data
3 storage system.

1 8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein if said first data
2 object is not copied to a second data storage system, then determining a replication site from
3 among said second data storage systems independently of content of said first data object and
4 copying said first data object to said replication site.

1 9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18 wherein said selection
2 criteria are stored in said first data storage system, said method further comprising
3 communicating said first data object to said second data storage system based on said profile
4 information and on said selection criteria.

1 10. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising additional selection
2 criteria for an additional second data storage system, said method further comprising
3 communicating said first data object to said additional second data storage system based on said
4 profile information and said additional selection criteria.

1 11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18 wherein said selection
2 criteria are stored in a selection server system separate from said first data storage system and
3 from said second data storage system, said method further comprising:
4 communicating said profile information to said selection server system; and
5 receiving a selection indication from said selection server system,
6 wherein said first data object is selectively communicated to said second data
7 storage system depending on said selection indication.

1 12. (Currently amended) A distributed data storage system comprising a
2 plurality of data servers, each data server comprising:
3 a client interface component configured for communication with one or more
4 clients to exchange data;
5 a data storage interface component configured for data communication with a data
6 storage component; and
7 a data processing component configured to:
8 produce profile information associated with a first data object that is
9 stored in said data storage component, said profile information comprising content-based
10 information associated with content of said first data object;
11 communicate said profile information to a plurality of candidate data
12 servers;
13 generate, at each of said plurality of candidate data servers, a selection
14 indication based on the profile information and selection criteria maintained at each of
15 said plurality of candidate data servers;

16 receive ~~[[a]]~~ the selection indication by said data storage component from
17 each of said candidate data servers; and
18 copy said first data object to one or more of said candidate data servers
19 based on selection indications received from said candidate data servers,
20 wherein a selection indication is produced by a candidate data server and is based
21 on selection criteria stored in said candidate data server and on said profile information.

13. (Canceled)

1 14. (Previously presented) The data storage system of claim 12 wherein said
2 selection indication is a metric that is based on selection criteria and on said profile information.

1 15. (Previously presented) The data storage system of claim 12 wherein said
2 selection indication is a binary indicator that indicates whether or not to copy said first data
3 object to said second data server.

16-17. (Canceled)

1 18. (Currently amended) A method for distributing data among a plurality of
2 data storage systems comprising:
3 obtaining selection criteria in a first data storage system;
4 producing profile information for a first data object that is stored in said first data
5 storage system, said profile information comprising content-based information associated with
6 said first data object;
7 communicating the selection criteria and the profile information to at least one
8 second data storage system;
9 generating, at said at least one second data storage system, a selection indication
10 based on the selection criteria and the profile information;
11 receiving the selection indication by the first data storage system from said at
12 least one second data storage system; and

13 selectively copying said first data object to said at least one second data storage
14 system based on said selection ~~indication~~criteria and on said profile information,
15 ~~wherein said first data object is copied to said second data storage system~~
16 ~~depending on content-based information associated with said first data object.~~

1 19. (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising receiving, at said
2 first data storage system, said selection criteria from one or more data storage systems other than
3 said first data storage system.

1 20. (Currently amended) A data system comprising:
2 a plurality of data centers; and
3 a plurality of client systems in data communication with said data centers,
4 each data center comprising:
5 a data storage component;
6 a file server component operable to exchange data between a client system
7 and said data storage component;
8 a replicator component;
9 a receiver component; and
10 file selection criteria,
11 wherein said replicator component is operable to produce profile data for a
12 data object that is to be replicated among one or more candidate target data centers, to
13 communicate said profile data to at least one of said candidate target data centers, to
14 receive a selection indication from each of said candidate target data centers, and to
15 selectively communicate said data object to a candidate target data center based on its
16 selection indication, said profile data representative of content of said data object,
17 wherein said receiver component is operable to receive the profile data
18 information from a source data center and to generate a selection indication based on the
19 profile data and selection criteria maintained in said receiver component, said receiver
20 component further operable to communicate [[a]]the selection indication to said source

21 data center for selectively copying said data object~~based on said file selection criteria and~~
22 ~~on said profile data.~~

1 21. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein said selection indication is an
2 interest metric that is determined based on said file selection criteria and on said profile data,
3 wherein said replicator component is further operable to communicate said data object to a
4 candidate data center based on its interest metric, wherein said candidate target data centers are
5 ordered to produce an ordered set based on their corresponding interest metrics and said
6 replicator component is further operable to communicate said data object to the first N target
7 data centers selected from said ordered set.

1 22. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein said selection indication is an
2 interest metric that is determined based on said file selection criteria and on said profile data,
3 wherein said replicator component is further operable to communicate said data object to a
4 candidate data center based on its interest metric, wherein said replicator component
5 communicates said data object to a candidate target center if its interest metric exceeds a
6 predetermined threshold.

1 23. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein said selection indication is an
2 indication of whether or not to communicate said data object to said candidate target data center.

1 24. (Currently amended) A data system comprising:
2 a plurality of data centers; and
3 a plurality of client systems in data communication with said data centers,
4 each data center comprising:
5 a data storage component;
6 a file server component operable to exchange data between a client system
7 and said data storage component;
8 a replicator component; and

9 a collection of selection criteria comprising selection criteria provided
10 from other data centers,
11 wherein said replicator component is operable to produce profile data for a
12 data object that is to be replicated among one or more candidate target data centers, to
13 communicate said profile data to at least one of said candidate target data centers, and to
14 selectively communicate said data object to said candidate target data centers based on a
15 ~~said profile data and selection criteria~~selection indication corresponding to each of said
16 candidate target data centers, said profile data representative of content of said data
17 object, and
18 wherein at least one of said candidate target data centers is operable to
19 receive the profile data, calculate the selection indication based on the profile data and
20 said selection criteria, and communicate said selection indication to said replicator
21 component.

1 25. (Original) The system of claim 24 wherein said replicator module is
2 operable to produce based on said collection selection criteria and on said profile data a plurality
3 of interest metrics, each interest metric corresponding a data center, wherein said candidate
4 target data centers are ordered to produce an ordered set based on their corresponding interest
5 metrics, wherein said replicator component is further operable to communicate said data object
6 to the first N target data centers selected from said ordered set.

1 26. (Original) The system of claim 24 wherein said replicator module is
2 operable to produce based on said collection selection criteria and on said profile data a plurality
3 of interest metrics, each interest metric corresponding a data center, wherein said replicator
4 component communicates said data object to a candidate target center if its interest metric
5 exceeds a predetermined threshold.

27-28. (Canceled)